

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Actions dated June 13, 2005 and February 28, 2005.

Claims 1-13 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 4-6 and 13, and his indication that claims 8-11 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 8-10 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 4-6, 8-10 and 13 are now in condition for allowance given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The title stands objected to in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. It is believed that this may be a typo. In particular, the title was amended in the amendment filed December 20, 2004, and is believed to be indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being alleged anticipated by Fukumoto. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended requires "a groove formed in a portion of a rear surface of said silicon substrate corresponding to said element non-forming region, wherein said groove does not extend all the way through the silicon substrate, so that the semiconductor chip is flexible, and wherein the groove is not provided under any portion of the element forming region." For example, grooves 9 in fig. 2A are not provided under any portion of the element forming region 8.

Fukumoto fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined aspect of amended claim 1. Instead, Fukumoto teaches directly away from the invention of claim 1 since in Fukumoto the alleged grooves are formed directly under the alleged element forming region 7. Thus, it will be appreciated that amended claim 1 defines over the art of record.

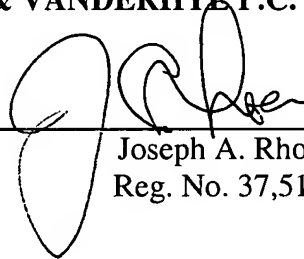
OHARA
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For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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